



Jay Lively Ice Rink

7.0 Recreation Facilities

Overview

The City owns and operates several activity centers including the Jay Lively Ice Rink, Flagstaff Aquaplex and neighborhood drop-in centers. These facilities are important to the community and are well-used. This chapter discussed current facilities and their management and use and includes goals, policies and actions for the future.

Current Recreation Facilities

Jay Lively Activity Center (Ice Rink)

The Jay Lively Activity Center is located at McPherson Community Park. The Activity Center includes an ice skating rink that is open year-round and offers skate rental, and group rooms for parties. The rink is well used by leagues and the public. It offers lessons and public, adult and open hockey skating times in addition to being used by leagues. There are no other private or public ice skating facilities in the region.

Flagstaff Aquaplex

The Flagstaff Aquaplex is located on South 4th Street and Huntington Drive. The Aquaplex is a multi-purpose facility that includes a leisure pool, lazy river current channel with vortex, slides that exit and re-enter the building, child splash area, three lane lap pool, men's, women's, and family locker rooms, birthday party room, meeting/banquet/celebration spaces with the availability of a catering kitchen, regulation size multi-activity gym with fitness and aerobics rooms, two story climbing wall, indoor walking and running track, and game room. The Aquaplex is a high demand community destination. Other pools available to the public within the community include the Mt. Elden Middle School and Flagstaff High School pools and the NAU Wall Aquatic Center.



Flagstaff Aquaplex

The Mt. Elden Pool is a six lane, 25 yard-long pool. The Wall Aquatic Center, which serves the NAU campus, is open to the City of Flagstaff community and visitors during non-scheduled University use. The aquatic center has eight 50-meter lanes, two 1-meter and two 3-meter diving boards, shallow instruction/therapy area, weight room and classroom. The pool ranges in depth from three to 13 feet. The Flagstaff High School pool is 25 yards long. It offers diving blocks, kick boards, pace clocks, pulling gear and backstroke flags. The Flagstaff High School swim team uses this pool for practice and competitive events.

While competition pools and lap lanes are available at the Wall Aquatic Center and Flagstaff High School, there is community support for additional City-provided lap lanes. The facilities analysis shows that the City is not adequately served by public pools and this Plan recognizes that there is a shortage of lap lanes for competitive swimmers.

In addition to the pools, gym, climbing wall and classrooms, the Aquaplex is a community gathering place. An opportunity exists in here, as well as at the Jay Lively Activity Center and Joe C. Montoya Community and Senior Center to replace or enhance the vending machines by contracting with a vendor to operate a snack concession at these facilities.

Cogdill and Flagstaff Recreation Centers

The Flagstaff Recreation and Joe C. Montoya Community centers provide drop-in and scheduled programs. These centers provide programs to the surrounding community, as well as, the larger City of Flagstaff community. Both recreation centers offer drop in programs including homework, family game night, basketball (indoor court) and have a weight rooms.

Joe C. Montoya Community and Senior Center

The Joe C. Montoya Community and Senior Center is located in Thorpe Park. The City's senior lunch program is operated out of the center through Coconino County. The center includes community rooms, a weight room, and game/TV area. Through the survey, public input and the focus groups, residents reported that the center is well used. Some residents feel that the center should be more multi-generational. Programs offered at the center include art, music and writing and children's classes and a table tennis club. The center's central location within Thorpe Park makes it an excellent location for a contract concession serving the tennis courts, dog park, disc golf and ball fields.



Joe C. Montoya Community and Senior Center

Thorpe and Continental Park Concessions

Three concessions exist at Thorpe and Continental parks. One is a contracted concession at the Thorpe Park Adult Softball Complex. The other two concessions are managed, maintained and operated by the West Flagstaff Little League (Thorpe) and Continental Little League (Continental). They are located in Continental and Thorpe parks adjacent to the fields and open during games.

Ramadas

The City currently manages eleven picnic ramadas, which are in high demand. Rental fees for the ramadas do not cover maintenance and upkeep. Current fees range from \$10.50/hour for larger, covered ramadas to \$5.25/hour for small ramadas. Unless the use of the ramada is determined to be a special event, no additional fee is required for an alcohol permit or the use of adjacent park facilities. Other jurisdictions also charge hourly for ramadas, require a minimum number of hours (e.g. more than 2) and require additional fees for use of adjacent facilities and for alcohol permits. Because the City is lacking ramadas, it is not likely that it can reduce the amount of reservable ramadas. However, the City should consider increasing ramada fees, requiring a minimum two-hour reservation fee, charging for damage (or requiring a security deposit), and charging for an alcohol permit regardless of the group size. Additional charges for a "bouncy house" or other play activity should be required to cover maintenance and grounds repair that is required from the use of these facilities. The ramada fee should include:

- Labor to maintain ramada (1 hour/day per ramada area)
- Maintenance related repairs to ramada (10% of labor)
- Sinking fund for new ramadas (.0001% of cost to construct a group ramada)
- Administration to maintain and book reservation (2% of fee)



Thorpe Park

Future Recreation Facilities

The City is currently deficient with regards to sports fields. In addition, there is an identified demand for an additional sheet of ice. As the City's population increases, the demand for new and enhanced recreation facilities will continue. Community input from focus groups, survey and public meetings included high levels of interest in more field facilities, and many suggested that the City of Flagstaff's summer climate and location near the Grand Canyon and Las Vegas positions the City as a desirable venue for regional, national and international events and competitions.

Field Facility

To meet many of these needs, and provide a facility that could host events and competitions, this Plan recommends the City build a sports facility at the planned Lake Mary Park. Public and private sports facilities of various types can be found throughout the State, and include the 83,000 s.f. Avondale American Sports Centers complex which includes two indoor soccer fields, six volleyball and four basketball courts. The Big League Dreams Sports Park is located in Gilbert with replica fields, a 20,000 sq. ft. indoor soccer pavilion, flag football fields, batting cages, and a stadium club restaurant. The Goodyear Recreation complex houses the Cleveland Indians, Cincinnati Reds and provides eight training fields for public use ten months a year and the Phoenix Reach 11 facility includes 18 soccer fields and parking for 1,000 cars. All of these facilities have met key needs for sports fields within their jurisdiction. While these jurisdictions have larger population bases than Flagstaff, a similar facility in the City of Flagstaff could serve a regional need, would help alleviate the demand for field facilities as well as contribute to the economic sustainability of the City through tourist revenues associated with events.

Snow Play

The City is working to develop a snow play area. The current approach is to identify a site that can be privately developed, operated and maintained. This facility could compliment and enhance recreation offerings to residents, as well as attract additional winter visitors.

Ice Rink

There is substantial support within the community for a second sheet of ice. Because Jay Lively Activity Center provides the only ice rink in the region, opportunity may exist to partner with a private entity to renovate and expand Jay Lively. If Jay Lively is expanded or renovated, consideration should be given to including additional facilities such as party rooms, snack bar, community rooms and parking. If an additional facility is privately constructed, it may compete with Jay Lively (depending on fees), and negatively impact revenues from the rink.



Jay Lively Ice Rink

FACILITIES GOALS, POLICIES AND ACTION STRATEGIES

Policy	Reduced	Baseline	Enhanced
GOAL 1: Manage facilities in a sustainable manner			
P.1.1 Recover costs for facility operations	A.1.1.1 Increase ramada rental fees to cover the cost of maintenance and updating as per the recommendation of this plan	A.1.1.1 Increase ramada rental fees to cover the cost of maintenance and updating as per the recommendation of this plan	A.1.1.1 Increase ramada rental fees to cover the cost of ongoing maintenance
	A.1.1.2 Require a non-resident surcharge for all facility fees.	A.1.1.2 Require a non-resident surcharge for all facility fees.	A.1.1.2 Work with Coconino County to develop a program where County residents are not required to pay the City non-resident surcharge for the use of City facilities and City residents pay the same as county residents for the use of county facilities.
P.1.3 Explore opportunities to purchase or long-term lease existing facilities for City of Flagstaff Use	A.1.3.1 Explore opportunities to lease portions of existing facilities for recreation programs and recreation use.	A.1.3.1 Explore opportunities to lease portions of existing facilities for recreation programs and recreation use.	A.1.3.1 Explore opportunities to lease or purchase all or portions of existing facilities for recreation programs and recreation use.

FACILITIES GOALS, POLICIES AND ACTION STRATEGIES

Policy	Reduced	Baseline	Enhanced
P.2.1 Explore opportunities to generate revenues through facility operations.	A.1.2.1 Consider offering snack bar concession contracts at the Joe C. Montoya Community and Senior Center, Jay Lively Activity Center and Flagstaff Aquaplex . Offer the concession through a bid process so the City can select a vendor that provides maximum benefit.	A.1.2.1 Consider offering snack bar concession contracts at the Joe C. Montoya Community and Senior Center, Jay Lively Activity Center and Flagstaff Aquaplex . Offer the concession through a bid process so the City can select a vendor that provides maximum benefit.	A.1.2.1 Consider offering snack bar concession contracts at the Joe C. Montoya Community and Senior Center, Jay Lively Activity Center and Flagstaff Aquaplex . Offer the concession through a bid process so the City can select a vendor that provides maximum benefit.
	A.1.2.2 Consider charging a small ground lease fee for concessions operated by little leagues.		
GOAL 2: Provide Adequate Facilities in City Parks For Family and Local Events			
P.2.1 Provide ramadas and family gathering areas in City parks as identified in this plan.	A.2.1.1 Close ramadas on weekdays	A.2.1.1 Build at least two ramadas in each of McPherson and Buffalo Parks.	A.2.1.1 Increase the number of ramadas at all parks in accordance with the facility recommendations of this plan.

FACILITIES GOALS, POLICIES AND ACTION STRATEGIES

Policy	Reduced	Baseline	Enhanced
	A.2.1.2 Close/remove community and Neighborhood Park ramadas.	A.2.1.2 Work with local business and leagues to sponsor construction and maintenance of new ramadas in City parks.	A.2.1.2 Replace the “picnic table” ramadas with covered ramadas.
	A.2.1.3 Work with local business and leagues to sponsor construction and maintenance of new ramadas in City parks.	A.2.1.3 Work with local business and leagues to sponsor construction and maintenance of new ramadas in City parks.	A.2.1.3 Designate Neighborhood Park ramadas as “first come/first served” and include limitations on their use. Designate other ramadas as reservation only ramadas.
P.2.2 Provide facilities and family gathering areas in City parks		A.2.2.1 Consider identifying a location within McPherson or Buffalo Park that could be leased for weddings and other family occasions.	A.2.2.1 Consider building a facility in McPherson or Buffalo Park that could be rented out for weddings and other family occasions.
	A.2.2.2 Eliminate rental fees for Neighborhood Park ramadas and provide these facilities without reservations on a first-come first serve basis.	A.2.2.2 Eliminate rental fees for Neighborhood Park ramadas and provide these facilities without reservations on a first-come first serve basis.	A.2.2.2 Eliminate rental fees for Neighborhood Park ramadas and provide these facilities without reservations on a first-come first serve basis.

FACILITIES GOALS, POLICIES AND ACTION STRATEGIES

Policy	Reduced	Baseline	Enhanced
GOAL 3: Provide Adequate Recreation Facilities For City Residents			
P.3.1 Explore opportunities to enhance competitive swim venues for City residents.		A.3.1.1 Work with a public or private provider such as a school or non-profit to provide competitive lap lane access to City residents at fees commensurate with the Aquaplex.	A.3.1.1 Consider adding a competitive pool to the Flagstaff Aquaplex.
P.3.2 Develop a multi-field sports facility at Lake Mary Park	A.3.2.1 Advertise for a private entity to construct a multi-field, multi-use field, court and softball sports facility at Lake Mary Park and at no expense to the City.	A.3.2.1 Advertise for a private entity to partner in the construction of a multi-field, court, multi-use field and softball sports facility at Lake Mary Park.	A.3.2.1 Construct a multi-field, court, multi-use field and softball sports facility at Lake Mary Park.
P.3.3 Explore enhancing winter sports offerings to residents and tourists.	A.3.3.1 Continue to explore public/private partnerships to build a snow play area at no expense to the City.	A.3.3.1 Continue to explore public/private partnerships to build a snow play area on City-owned or private land at no expense to the City.	A.3.3.1 Build a snow play area and lease it to a concessionaire.
P.3.4 Expand Ice Skating/Hockey opportunities within the City.	A.3.4.1 Explore public private partnerships to increase Ice Skating/Ice Hockey opportunities within the City at no cost to the City.	A.3.4.1 Partner with a private entity to build an additional sheet of ice at Jay Lively or on City owned land at another location within the City.	A.3.4.1 Build an additional sheet of ice at Jay Lively or on City owned land at another location.

FACILITIES GOALS, POLICIES AND ACTION STRATEGIES

Policy	Reduced	Baseline	Enhanced
P.3.5 Provide opportunities for outdoor winter recreation.	A.3.5.1 Work with a private entity to acquire land for and build a snow play area. Consider providing City land for the Snowplay area in exchange for a fixed yearly fee in addition to concession revenues provided to the City.	A.3.5.1 Work with a private entity to acquire land for and build a snow play area. Consider providing City land for the Snowplay area.	A.3.5.1 Work with a private entity to acquire land for and build a snow play area. Consider building the facility and contracting with an concession to operate it.